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of some method of showing general trend and the significance of variations therefrom, the statistical table becomes meaningless.

In spite of failure to establish clearly the special features of his theory, the author has given us another demonstration of the fact that the progressive industrialization of the Western World must encounter increasing difficulties as other communities move in the same direction. As supplementary areas grow small and gradually become barely self-sustaining, or even partially dependent as regards foods and raw materials, the capitalistic phase of world development must gradually give way to one in which standards of taste are less pecuniary and industrial organization less exploitative.

F. H. HANKINS.

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The Italian Emigration of Our Times. Robert F. Foerster. (Harvard Economic Studies, Vol. XX.) Boston, Harvard University Press, 1919. Pp. xv, 556.

Dr. Foerster has produced a book for which all students of migrations will be grateful. It unmistakably shows a first-hand knowledge of the conditions of the Italian emigrant both at home and abroad, as well as a complete mastery of the literature. Moreover, unlike the work of most American scholars, it is written in a graceful style, rising at times to real beauty and distinction.

What distinguishes Dr. Foerster's work from that of most writers upon the subject is that, like Miss Balch, he rightly makes emigration from the homeland, rather than immigration into any one country, the center of the problem. As the result of an admirable statistical study, he shows that in the forty years preceding 1914, between sixteen and seventeen millions of emigrants left Italy. This figure, however, represents a certain amount of duplication since it includes the reëmigrants and the seasonal laborers who, before the war, went forth annually to work in the European countries and even as far away as Brazil, only to return in the winter. Dr. Foerster estimates that of the total emigration, approximately two-thirds was temporary and either had returned or would return to Italy. Something over four millions, however, had been finally lost to the country.

The early emigrants came chiefly from the northern provinces, but since 1900, the south has furnished the chief source. Four-fifths of them are males and the great majority unskilled laborers coming from the rural districts.

The forces causing this unparalleled migration are impelling rather than alluring. The emigrants are driven out by the economic pressure of an overcrowded population working upon infertile soil with the most primitive of tools and rudimentary of agricultural practices. Added to this is the system of large landed estates whereby high rents are exacted by absentee landlords and in the south the widespread prevalence of malaria. The inevitable result is a condition of misery which, in Sicily and the south especially, was scarcely equalled in any European country prior to the war.

Such, then, are the causes which have brought about this exodus of millions. Where have they gone? Everywhere that there has been economic opportunity. Both in the causes of emigration and in the direction which it has taken, economic factors, therefore, have almost completely predominated. Dr. Foerster describes, with a wealth of detail, the wide distribution of the emigrants. Large numbers have entered every European country, save Great Britain and Russia. Dr. Foerster points out the little known fact that of the transoceanic emigrants, the majority have gone to Argentina and Brazil. His chapters on the migrations to these countries are indeed a unique contribution. He computes that the native-born Italians form as

much as one-seventh of the total population of Argentina while the Italian stock as a whole comprises approximately one-third. Most of the migrations to South America occurred prior to 1900, and consequently were largely composed of emigrants from the north. Since then, the main channel of emigration has of course been to the United States and has been composed chiefly of south Italians. Great as has been the Italian immigration into this country in the last twenty years, it has not as yet equalled the total number that have entered Argentina and Brazil.

The conditions of life of the Italians abroad are, with few exceptions, but slightly less severe than in Italy itself. They are almost uniformly unskilled laborers, whether they are at work in the mines of Germany and France, on the construction jobs or in the harvest fields of central Europe, the coffee plantations of Brazil, or in the mines, manufacturing industries and construction camps of the United States. Relatively few become skilled craftsmen, although many enter the small merchant class. In the Argentine the rigorous labors of the Italian immigrants have been largely absorbed by the native landed aristocracy in the form of enhanced land values and rentals while the Italians themselves have not prospered in proportion to their efforts.

Low as their wages have been, Italians abroad have sought desperately to save in order that they might return to Italy with "their pile." Their low wages, their desire to save, and their previous low standards all cause their mode of life in foreign lands to be unsanitary and unsuitable. Moreover, the same forces have led them in industry to overstrain both themselves and their families while the individualism born of the desire to return to Italy deters them from combining with their fellow-laborers to better their condition. They have in short furnished excellent material for exploitation, whether by landlord, employer, or unscrupulous fellow-countryman.

The effects upon Italy itself have been noteworthy. The money wages of the agricultural laborers who have remained behind have risen, although it is doubtful whether real wages, save in one or two provinces, have increased appreciably. Nor have the returned emigrants improved the agricultural practices. Despite the millions that left the country from 1880 to 1910, the population of Italy increased more rapidly than ever before. This increase, however, was largely secured by the cities, for along with emigration from the country, has gone the characteristic migration within the country from the rural districts to the cities. Dr. Foerster is inclined to believe that emigration has not resulted in a smaller population for Italy as a whole, due to the fact that the excess of births over deaths has increased. This has been caused by the great reduction in the death rate without an appreciable reduction in the birth rate. Of late, however, Dr. Foerster, points out that the birth rate has fallen, notably in Piedmont as a result of the return of the emigrants from France.

Dr. Foerster urges as a program of economic betterment not the encouragement of further emigration, but instead internal reforms. His program includes: (1) the rehabilitation by the government of the agricultural lands of the south by means of reforestation, drainage, irrigation and the construction of roads, (2) the breaking up of the estates into more moderate holdings with the substitution of the cash rental for the metayer system, (3) the introduction of modern farming machinery and practices, (4) the establishment of a universal free system of education. For those who do leave the country, Dr. Foerster would continue the oversight already exercised by the Italian government and would add the establishment of standards which must be met to permit of emigration, the creation of an international labor exchange to adjust seasonal demands for and supplies of labor, the protection of the emigrant while en route and the formulation of a uniform international code defining the rights of aliens.

It is extremely doubtful, however, in the opinion of the reviewer, whether these measures would achieve any permanent gains unless they were accompanied by a thoroughgoing decrease in the birth rate. Dr. Foerster avoids this question but it is one that should be considered in any adequate discussion of Italy's population problem.

Such a reduction in the birth rate would undoubtedly meet with opposition both from the Catholic church and from the imperialists and militarists. The church would object because it has always stood for a maximum increase of its membership. The militarists and imperialists want a surplus population to man the new empires, that they are hoping to stake out in Dalmatia, North Africa and Asia Minor and to form the armies necessary to maintain and enlarge these dominions.

PAUL H. DOUGLAS.

Statistics in Business.—Their Analysis, Charting and Use. By Horace Secrist, Ph.D. New York, The McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1920. 137 pp.

As stated by the author in his brief preface, this book is intended primarily for the business executive, and with this purpose in mind the treatment is concrete and concise. In the reader's opinion it should prove valuable to the busy executive in suggesting phases of business for scientific study. The material it contains is not mathematical, and can be grasped by persons possessed of little or no knowledge of the scientific aspects of statistics.

The first three chapters, covering forty pages, define and describe the facts of business—any business. We are told how to recognize business facts and where to find available sources. The fourth chapter, under the title of "Classifying and Tabulating the Facts," gives a short and lucid description of the correct and incorrect methods of tabulating statistical data. The author has illustrated the text with several tables and has indicated their good and bad features. Certain fundamental principles are given for the preparation of schedules for the collection of data: (1) Coöperation must be solicited. (2) Inquiries should be brief and to the point. (3) The forms should be simple and not involve an undue amount of labor. (4) The questions should be answerable so far as possible by yes or no or by a simple answer.

After having first shown us how to define and to recognize and then to collect and tabulate our facts, the author in the fifth chapter shows us how to present them in a striking manner by the use of graphs. Rules for charting as well as a description of the various methods and materials used, are treated with sufficient detail as to be a comprehensive survey of the subject. The criticism may be made, however, that often the illustration and the text are not on the same page, making it necessary that the reader turn over several pages when referring to the diagram. This arrangement is not conducive to a close study of the diagrams, and the tendency would be to read the text and casually refer to the illustrations, not giving them the careful attention they deserve.

The closing chapters of this small volume treat the methods of summarizing the results obtained from the tabulating and charting of data. The author devotes some consideration to the discussion of the use and advantages of the average as well as to business principles and standards. In his opinion there are two stages in the application of scientific methods to business or other phenomena: (1) scientific observation and (2) logical inference. It is only by passing through both that a science of business can be developed.

R. L. WHITE.